(e) what is the number of persons affected thereby; and

(f) the amount involved in each case in each unit, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (f) In cases of non-payment of gratuity, the employees have to file complaints with the Controlling Authoritiy appointed under the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 by appropriate Government. According to available information, 6168 complaints were received during 1985,1986 and 1987 (upto April) by the Controlling Authorities appointed by the Central Government for the establishments falling in the central sphere, out of which 2463 complaints affecting 2463 presons and involving a sum of about Rs. 80|- lakhs were reported to be pending with Controlling Authorities (including those in Gujarat), as on 30-4-1987. The pendency is mainly due to adjournments sought by concerned parties. The information regarding the complaints received by the Controlling Authorities appointed by the State Governments is not readily available.

Use of Hindi conversations with foreign dignitaries abroad

2685. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Diplomats, Ministers and Ministerial delegations have been directed to converse in Hindi with foreign dignitaries, so as to project a proper image of India abroad;

(b) whether there are directives that letters received in Hindi must be replied to in Hindi;

(c) whether the same directives of part (b) above are not applicable when any interview is being taken on Television;

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor and if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative whether he is aware that Chairman and Managing Director of the Oriental Fire and General Insurance Company could neither answer the questions asked by the TV announcer in Hindi nor in English which were being asked by her in Hindi only in a programme which was telecast from 9.50 P.M. to 10.20 P.M. on 2nd February, 1987; and

(e) whether his Ministry propose to issue instructions to Doordarshan authorities that in their programmes questions asked in their programmes must be answered in Hindi only?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Yes, Sir. A circular letter was sent to all Missions requesting them to advise|persuade members of Indian delegations going abroad to make use of Hindi, to the extent considered practicable and expedient.

(b) According to rule 5 of the Official Languages Rules, 1976, framed under the Official Languages Act, 1963, communications from Central Government offices in reply to communications in Hindi shall be in Hindi.

(c) The above rule does not apply to the interviews in Doordarshan programmes.

(d Since Doordarshan is a communication medium, the objective is to get the desired information in whatever language the interviewee can express himself conveniently.

(e) No, Sir.

Economic situation of the Powerloom and Handloom weavers

2686. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:

SHRI SHANKARRAO NARAYANRAO DESHMUKH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the economic situation of the powerloom and handloom weavers in the country;

(b) whether the Government of Maharashtra recommended to the Central

Government certain measures to help these weaker sections of the society; and

(c) what measures the Government of India have taken in this matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The economic situation of handloom and powerloom weavers is characterised by the rising production over the last two years.

(b) and (c) A statement is attached.

Statement

So far as the handloom sector is concerned, no suggestions from Government of Maharashtra are reported to have been received. However, in pursuance of the Textile Policy of June, 1985, various benefits have been made available to all handoom weavers including weavers in Maharashtra. Some of the measures taken by Government in this regard include setting up of Contributory Thrift Fund Scheme, Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, Modernisation of looms and provisions for technological and other inputs for improving productivity and quality and finishing of handloom products, procurement and supply of yarn and other raw materials at reasonable prices, production of mixed and blended fabrics and providing protection to handlooms by reserving certain articles for exclusive production in the handloom sector under "handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production)" Act, 1985.

With regard to powerloom sector, it may be mentioned that the Government of Maharashtra had earlier suggested that ie ban on production of certain varieties cloth by powerloom should be lifted; at specifications given in the reservation ler should be simplified; that differen- concession in excise duty which the erloom sector enjoy prior to the get of 1985-86 should be restored; id that the IDBI modernisation scheme should be extended to the powerloom sector also.

The Advisory Committee regarding reservation of certain fabrics for handlooms was re-constituted and two representatives of the powerloom sector were included in the Advisory Committee. On the basis of the recommendations made by the reconstituted Committee, a revised notification regarding reservation of fabrics for production of handlooms was issued on 5th August, 1986. Government do not propose to disturb the policy of providing protection to handlooms by reserving articles for their exclusive production in the handloom sector. IDBI refinance is now available for modernisation of decentralised powerloom units also.

The present policy provides that the healthy development of the powerloom sector should take place in the context of parity between powerlooms in the organised mill sector and in the unorganised powerloom sector.

Soviet willingness to purchase Indian equipment and chemicals

2687. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Soviet Union is ready to purchase Indian equipment and chemicals for its oil sector; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) During the Indi-Soviet Joint Commission Meeting held in Moscow in June, 1987, the question of Soviet Union utilising Indian drilling equipment, chemicals and services was discussed. No agreement on this, however, has been finalised.

Dowry deaths in Delhi

2688. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total number of dowry deaths during the year 1986-87 in Delhi; and